Maunawili Trail

Notice to Mountain Bikers: Always yield to hikers. Do not ride on this trail when it is raining or when the trail is wet. Dismount and walk through muddy sections of trail. Do not slide around curves along the trail or lock your brakes and slide down steeper trail sections - this style of riding damages the trail and contributes to trail erosion. If accidents between hikers and bikers are reported, or severe damage to the trail from mountain bike use occurs, this trail may be closed in the future to mountain bikes. Always ride safely. Mahalo for your cooperation and assistance in keeping our trails safe and in preserving Hawaii's natural resources.

Getting there: There are three access points for the Maunawili trail.

From Honolulu, 1) Drive along the Pali Highway to the Nuuanu Pali Lookout. Park in the designated parking area. From the scenic viewing area, proceed to the right along the old abandoned roadway that is above and parallels the Pali Highway. At the end of this old roadway you will reach the Maunawili trail head. The trail then continues above the highway (towards Maunawili) and intersects with the second trail access. From this location proceed to your right along the trail. If you proceed left you will reach the Pali Highway. 2) Proceed along the Pali Highway and pass through the tunnels. Shortly after the tunnels, there is a hairpin turn in the highway. On the right side of the road there is a scenic turnout with small parking area that provides views of Olomana - this is the parking area for access to the trail. Mauka (towards the mountain) of the parking area there is a break in the guardrail for pedestrians. The trail access is just beyond the small concrete drainage ditch. This access is the most popular, and will enable you to get away from highway noise faster than access #1. 3) From Waimanalo: Drive along the Kalanianaole Highway, and turn onto Kumuhau Street. Follow Kumuhau and turn right on to Waikupunaha Street. Shortly after you pass Mahiku Place, on your right, there will be a fence and gate, also on your right. Park along the street and proceed through the small break in the fence. Proceed mauka along the dirt road. You will soon pass the Maunawili Ditch Trail on your right. Continue up the road until you reach a gap in the ridge. Directly on your left is the Maunawili Trail. Do not continue forward through the gap in the ridge the land on the other side of the ridge is private property. Turn left and proceed along the trail.

Route: The trail winds along the back of Maunawili Valley for approximately ten miles, weaving in and out of numerous gulches and along ridges, following the base of the mountains. This trail provides panoramic views of Olomana, Maunawili, Kanehoe, Kailua, Waimanalo, the ocean and dramatic views of the Koolau Mountains.

Other: To maximize safety, always stay on the trail, there are no other available graded trails that proceed off the main trail. There are proposed trail linkages that may be developed in the future. Below several trail sections there is privately leased land and private property. Near Waimanlo, the trail intersects a utility road, proceed across the road and continues along the trail. Do not go down the road - you will enter private property. At all parking areas: Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle.

